

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2528

To call on the United States and its partners to continue support for the Iranian people in their fight for freedom and prosperity.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 8, 2018

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. MANCHIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## A BILL

To call on the United States and its partners to continue support for the Iranian people in their fight for freedom and prosperity.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-  
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4       (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Continued Support for the Iranian People Act of 2018”.

6       (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Sense of Congress.
- Sec. 4. Statement of United States policy.

See. 5. Requirements.

Sec. 6. Appropriate congressional committees defined.

**1 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2        Congress makes the following findings:

3                (1) The protests that began on December 28,  
4                2017, in Iran (in this Act referred to as “the pro-  
5                tests”) were instigated and supported by a diverse  
6                demographic of Iranian citizens, especially including  
7                the poor and economically disenfranchised popu-  
8                lations across the country, located in both rural and  
9                urban areas.

10                (2) Rather than invest in the legitimate econ-  
11                omy and future of the Iranian people, the Govern-  
12                ment of Iran budgeted billions of dollars to continue  
13                supporting illegitimate armed groups and terrorists  
14                in the region, primarily through its Islamic Revolu-  
15                tionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

16                (3) The Government of Iran has arrested at  
17                least 4,500 individuals for participating in the pro-  
18                tests, at least 490 of whom remain in custody, ac-  
19                cording to news reports.

20                (4) According to Reuters, Iranian Deputy Inter-  
21                ior Minister Hossein Zolfaghari stated on January  
22                1, 2018, that “more than 90 percent of the people  
23                arrested in these unrests were young people and

1 teenagers under the age of 25 and virtually none of  
2 them have any arrest history”.

3 (5) On January 8, 2018, Hamid Shahriari, dep-  
4 uty head of the Government of Iran’s judiciary, said  
5 that “those who organized and led the unrest  
6 against the establishment can expect the maximum  
7 penalty,” according to the Iranian Students News  
8 Agency (ISNA), as reported by Radio Free Europe/  
9 Radio Liberty.

10 (6) Three detained prisoners were reported to  
11 have “committed suicide” in Iranian prisons since  
12 their incarceration, including Iranian-Canadian aca-  
13 demic Kavous Seyed-Emami.

14 (7) The Iranian Security Forces have killed  
15 over 20 individuals during the protests, including  
16 13-year-old Armin Sadeghi.

17 (8) The Government of Iran has consistently  
18 blocked Internet access and use of communications  
19 applications like Telegram and Instagram. As of  
20 January 31, 2018, protests continue throughout  
21 Iran, with demonstrations in the city of Ahvaz on  
22 January 23, 2018, and four more cities in the days  
23 since.

24 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

25 Congress—

1                   (1) strongly condemns the Government of Iran  
2       for its human rights violations against the people of  
3       Iran during and in the wake of the protests;

4                   (2) urges the President to continue to pub-  
5       licly—

6                   (A) condemn the Government of Iran for  
7       its human rights abuses against the Iranian  
8       people; and

9                   (B) support the human rights, economic  
10      prosperity, and democratic aspirations of the  
11      Iranian people;

12                  (3) reaffirms the right of the people of Iran to  
13      the freedom of speech and assembly in the face of  
14      oppression perpetrated by the Government of Iran;  
15      and

16                  (4) supports the right of the people of Iran to  
17      a democratic system of governance.

18 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF UNITED STATES POLICY.**

19       It is the policy of the United States—

20                  (1) to condemn the Government of Iran's viola-  
21      tions of its citizens' human rights, freedom of reli-  
22      gious expression, and freedom of speech, including  
23      state-sanctioned violence against peaceful protestors;

4 (3) to work with international allies and part-  
5 ners to monitor and effectively respond to the pro-  
6 tests in Iran in a manner that supports the human  
7 rights and democratic aspirations of the people of  
8 Iran and deters the Government of Iran from com-  
9 mitting continued acts of oppression and persecution  
10 against its citizens.

## 11 SEC. 5. REQUIREMENTS.

## 12 (a) USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA.—

1 viders, and expert public stakeholders, as appropriate,  
2 to develop a strategy consisting of potential  
3 government and private sector actions and best practices  
4 for preventing the Government of Iran from  
5 shutting down Internet access and blocking access to  
6 social media applications.

7 (3) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180  
8 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
9 Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate  
10 congressional committees an unclassified report,  
11 which may contain a classified annex, consisting of  
12 the archive described in paragraph (1) and the strategy  
13 described in paragraph (2).

14 (b) MODIFICATION OF ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS RE-  
15 PORT.—

16 (1) REPORT REQUIRED.—As part of the first  
17 Annual Country Report on Human Rights submitted  
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
19 of State and the Secretary of the Treasury,  
20 in consultation with other appropriate Federal agencies,  
21 shall include an unclassified report documenting  
22 the actions of the Government of Iran, the Iranian  
23 Revolutionary Court, the Iranian Revolutionary  
24 Guard Corps, and their proxies in response  
25 to the protests that began on December 28, 2017.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

20 SEC. 6. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-  
21 FINED.

22 In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional com-  
23 mittees” means—

1 tation, and the Committee on Appropriations of the  
2 Senate; and

3 (2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the  
4 Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Com-  
5 mittee on Appropriations of the House of Represent-  
6 atives.

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